

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, lines 12-13 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--R<sup>2</sup> is selected from -H and C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from halogen, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -OH, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkoxy, and halogen; and--

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, lines 20-25 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--R<sup>1</sup> is selected from C<sub>3-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, wherein said C<sub>3-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, halogen, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -OH, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen;--

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, line 28 to page 9, line 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In another embodiment, the compounds of the present invention are represented by formula I, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is R<sup>9</sup>-CH<sub>2</sub>-, wherein R<sup>9</sup> is selected from phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, triazolyl, pyrrolyl, thiazolyl, N-oxido-pyridyl, benzyl, pyridylmethyl, thienylmethyl, furylmethyl, imidazolymethyl, triazolymethyl, pyrrolylmethyl, thiazolymethyl and N-oxido-pyridylmethyl, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, halogen, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -OH, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkoxy, phenoxy and halogen; and--

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 6-9 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--wherein R<sup>1</sup> is R<sup>9</sup>-CH<sub>2</sub>-, wherein R<sup>9</sup> is selected from benzyl, phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, pyrrolyl and thiazolyl, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, halogen, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -OH, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen; and--

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 13-14 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--wherein R<sup>1</sup> is R<sup>9</sup>-CH<sub>2</sub>-, wherein R<sup>9</sup> is selected from benzyl, phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, pyrrolyl and thiazolyl; and--

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 18-21 with the following rewritten paragraph:

—R<sup>1</sup> is selected from C<sub>3-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, wherein said C<sub>3-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, halogen, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -OH, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen;—

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 23-26 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- R<sup>3</sup> is —H, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, wherein said C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, halogen, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -OH, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen.--

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, lines 5-11 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--R<sup>1</sup> is selected from R<sup>8</sup>-C(=O)-, R<sup>8</sup>-S(=O)<sub>2</sub>-, R<sup>8</sup>-S(=O)-, R<sup>8</sup>-NHC(=O)-, R<sup>8</sup>-C(=S)- and R<sup>8</sup>-NH-C(=S)-, wherein R<sup>8</sup> is selected from C<sub>3-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl; wherein said C<sub>3-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl are optionally substituted with C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, halogen, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -OH, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen;--

Please replace the paragraph at page 18, lines 7-12 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--R<sup>1</sup> is R<sup>9</sup>-CH<sub>2</sub>-, wherein R<sup>9</sup> is selected from phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, triazolyl, pyrrolyl, thiazolyl, N-oxido-pyridyl, benzyl, pyridylmethyl, thienylmethyl, furylmethyl, imidazolylmethyl, triazolylmethyl, pyrrolylmethyl, thiazolylmethyl and N-oxido-pyridylmethyl, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, halogen, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -OH, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkoxy, phenoxy and halogen;--

Please replace the paragraph at page 19, lines 10-14 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--R<sup>8</sup> is selected from C<sub>3-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl; wherein said C<sub>3-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl are optionally substituted with C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, halogen, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -OH, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen; and--

Please replace the paragraph at page 20, lines 12-16 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--R<sup>8</sup> is selected from C<sub>3-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl; wherein said C<sub>3-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl are optionally substituted with C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, halogen, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -OH, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen; and--